

Fun Facts: St. Patrick's Day–March 17

Irish-American Heritage Month

A History of St. Patrick's Day

- In 1991 Congress proclaimed March as Irish – American Heritage Month.
- Originally the holiday was to honor St. Patrick, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century later evolving into a celebration of all things Irish.
- The world's first St. Patrick's Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York City.



Everything Irish!

- **20,590*** - Estimated number of U.S. residents who speak Irish Gaelic.
- **About 43 years old** - Median age of those who claim Irish ancestry.
- **139** - The number of synthetic dye and pigment manufacturing businesses in the U.S. As an annual tradition to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the Chicago River is dyed green.
- Over **118,000** - The number of foreign-born U.S. residents who reported Ireland as their birthplace in 2021.
- **Almost \$82 billion** - Value of goods imported from Ireland in 2022.



Golden States of Irish Ancestry

31 million, or approximately 1 out of 10 (10%) - The number of U.S. residents who claimed Irish ancestry in 2021. These states have among the highest percentage of Irish ancestry:

New Hampshire
20%

Massachusetts
18%

Lucky Charms

Educational Attainment of people of Irish ancestry, 25 years and older:

- **Almost 5 out of 10 (42%)** have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Over 2 out of 10 (22%)** are high school graduates. (Includes equivalency.)



Occupations held by Irish-Americans, 16 years old and older:

- **Almost 5 out of 10 (49%)** work in management, business, science, and arts occupations (includes financial managers, accountants, geographers, and actors).
- **Approximately 2 out of 10 (21%)** work in sales and office occupations (includes retail sales workers, advertising sales agents, receptionists, and mail clerks).



Irish-American Presidents

When it comes to U.S. presidents, exactly half trace some of their roots to Ireland, including:

- Theodore Roosevelt - New York city, New York (**Population - 8,804,190**)
- Barack Obama - Honolulu County, Hawaii (**Population - 1,016,508**)
- George W. Bush - New Haven County, Connecticut (**Population - 864,835**)
- Joe Biden - Scranton city, Pennsylvania (**Population - 76,328**)
- Ronald Reagan - Tampico village, Illinois (**Population - 689**)
- John F. Kennedy - Brookline town, Massachusetts (**Population - 63,191**)



Places With the Luckiest Names

- Dublin city, California (**Population - 72,589**)
- Clover town, South Carolina (**Population - 6,671**)
- Emerald Isle town, North Carolina (**Population - 3,847**)
- Shamrock city, Texas (**Population - 1,789**)

*Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: ACS 2009-2013

Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year; Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: ACS 2009-2013; Trade in Goods with Ireland; 2020 Decennial Census; and 2019 County Business Patterns.